

## **CLAIMS**

### **What is claimed is:**

1. A method, comprising:

receiving a message from a first user to a second user, wherein the message originates at a first node in a network, is addressed to a second node in the network, and includes a request for input from the second user;

sending the message to the second node; and

if no indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the message, then sending the message to a target device associated with the second user, the target device not being connected to the network.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating at least one target device with the second user.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein sending the message to the target device comprises sending the message sequentially to each target device in the list.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein sending the message sequentially to each target device in the list comprises setting the first target device in the list as a current device and repeating:

sending the message to the current device; and

setting the next target device on the list as

the current device if no indication is received

from the current device to indicate that

the second user has read the message;

until the message has been sent to all target devices in the

list.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message to the target device comprises first determining if the second user has any associated target devices.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising waiting a time period before sending the message to the target device.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the time period based on an urgency of the message.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from the second user, and sending the response to the first user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the message comprising an approval request, and the input from the second user comprises a response to the approval request.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a notification to the first user if an indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the message.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising waiting for a response from the second user if an indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the message.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising formatting the message for the target device based on the capabilities of the target device, before sending a message.
13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving a message from a first user to a second user, wherein the message originates at a first node in a network, is addressed to a second node in the network, and includes a request for input from the second user;

sending the message to the second node; and  
if no indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the  
message, then sending the message to a target device associated with the  
second user, the target device not being connected to the network.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the method further  
comprises associating at least target device with the second user.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein sending a message  
to the target device comprises sending a message sequentially to each target  
device in the list.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein sending a message  
sequentially to each target device in the list comprises setting the first target  
device in the list as a current device and  
repeating:

sending the message to the current device; and  
setting the next target device on the list as  
the current device if no indication is received  
from the current device to indicate that  
the second user has read the message;

until the message has been sent to all target devices in the list.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein sending a message to the target device comprises first determining if the second user has any associated target devices.
18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises waiting a time period before sending the message to the target device.
19. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises determining the time period based on an urgency of the message.
20. A system, comprising:
  - a processor;
  - a network card coupled to the processor to enable communications with one or more networks; and
  - a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the system to perform a method comprising:
    - receiving a message from a first user to a second user, wherein the message originates at a first node in a network, is addressed to a second node in the network, and includes a request for input from the second user;

sending the message to the second node; and  
if no indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the  
message, then sending the message to a target device associated with the  
second user, the target device not being connected to the network.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises associating  
at least one target device with the second user.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein sending the message to the target device  
comprises sending the message sequentially to each target device in the list.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein sending the message sequentially to  
each target device in the list comprises setting the first target device in the list as  
a current device and  
repeating:  
sending the message to the current device; and  
setting the next target device on the list as  
the current device if no indication is received  
from the current device to indicate that  
the second user has read the message;  
until the message has been sent to all target devices in the list.

24. The system of claim 20, wherein sending the message to the target device comprises first determining if the second user has any associated target devices.
25. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises waiting a time period before sending the message to the target device.
26. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises determining the time period based on an urgency of the message.
27. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises receiving a response from the second user, and sending the response to the first user.
28. The system of claim 20, wherein the message comprises an approval request, and the input from the second user comprises a response to the approval request.
29. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises sending a notification to the first user if an indication is received to indicate that the second user has read the message.
30. The system of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises inserting a document identifier into a message before sending it to the target device.